
Support Annexes



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Support Annexes

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SUPPORT ANNEXES: INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This section provides an overview of the Support Annexes to the National Response Plan (NRP).

Background

The Support Annexes describe the framework through which Federal departments and agencies; State, local, and tribal entities; the private sector; volunteer organizations; and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) such as the American Red Cross coordinate and execute the common functional processes and administrative requirements necessary to ensure efficient and effective incident management. During an incident, numerous procedures and administrative functions are required to support incident management. The actions described in the Support Annexes are not limited to particular types of events but are overarching in nature and applicable to nearly every type of incident. In addition, they may support several Emergency Support Functions (ESFs). Examples include public affairs, international affairs, and worker safety and health.

The following section includes a series of annexes describing the roles and responsibilities, when appropriate, of Federal departments and agencies, NGOs, and the private sector for those common activities that support the majority of incidents. The annexes address the following areas:

- Financial Management
- International Coordination
- Logistics Management
- Private-Sector Coordination
- Public Affairs
- Science and Technology
- Tribal Relations
- Volunteer and Donations Management
- Worker Safety and Health

SUPPORT ANNEX ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Each Support Annex identifies a coordinating agency and cooperating agencies. In some instances, the responsibility of coordinating agency is a joint endeavor between two departments.

The overarching nature of functions described in these annexes frequently involves either support to or cooperation of all the departments and agencies involved in incident management efforts. In some cases, actions detailed in the annex also incorporate various components of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other departments and agencies to ensure seamless integration of and transitions between preparedness, prevention, response, recovery, and mitigation activities.

The responsibilities of the coordinating agency and cooperating agencies are identified below.

SUPPORT ANNEX ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (Continued)

Coordinating Agency

Coordinating agencies described in the NRP annexes support the DHS incident management mission by providing the leadership, expertise, and authorities to implement critical and specific aspects of the response. In accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5, DHS retains responsibility for overall domestic incident management. Federal agencies designated as coordinating agencies are responsible for implementation of processes detailed in the annexes.

When the functions of a particular Support Annex are required to assist in the management of an Incident of National Significance, the agency serving as the coordinator is responsible for:

- Orchestrating a coordinated delivery of those functions and procedures identified in the annex;
- Providing staff for the operations functions at fixed and field facilities;
- Notifying and subtasking cooperating agencies;
- Managing any tasks with cooperating agencies, as well as appropriate State agencies;
- Working with appropriate private-sector organizations to maximize use of all available resources;
- Supporting and keeping ESFs and other organizational elements informed of ongoing annex activities;
- Planning for short-term and long-term support to incident management and recovery operations; and
- Maintaining trained personnel to execute their appropriate support responsibilities.

Cooperating Agencies

When the procedures within a Support Annex are needed to support elements of an incident, the coordinating agency will notify cooperating agencies of the circumstances. Cooperating agencies are responsible for:

- Conducting operations, when requested by DHS or the coordinating agency, using their own authorities, subject-matter experts, capabilities, or resources;
- Participating in planning for short-term and long-term incident management and recovery operations and the development of supporting operational plans, standard operating procedures, checklists, or other job aids, in concert with existing first-responder standards;
- Furnishing available personnel, equipment, or other resource support as requested by DHS or the Support Annex Coordinator;
- Participating in training and exercises aimed at continuous improvement of prevention, response, and recovery capabilities; and
- Nominating new technologies or procedures that have the potential to improve performance within or across functional areas to DHS for review and evaluation.

When requested, and upon approval of the Secretary of Defense, the Department of Defense (DOD) provides Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) during domestic incidents. Accordingly, DOD is considered a cooperating agency for the majority of Support Annexes. For more information on DSCA, refer to the NRP Base Plan.